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The Passing Show.

"The policy we have pursued in the past we intend to pursue in the future," Mr. Fisher. Over 20,000 conscript boys have been punished "in the past."

Colonel Craig, a visitor to Sydney, says he found "the trend of Socialistic legislation in New Zealand too pronounced." The Colonel mistakes State capitalism for Socialism.

The Victorian Premier has denounced Syndicalism as "organised anarchy." He means organised chaos, poor chap.

You can talk of freedom, but you cannot enjoy it so long as another man owns your job and has the power to turn you out of it.

"The Commonwealth still holds by the discredited idea that brains are worth obtaining." "S.M. Herald." Is that why it continues to elect Joe Cook and send to Britain for its governors?

"We can be coaxed, but we won't be intimidated."—Mr. Lloyd George to militant suffragettes. All the same the Government has been intimidated by Carson's Ulstermen.

Under chattel-slavery the capitalists used to send to Africa for slaves. Under wage-slavery they send to Europe for immigrants.

"The Kaiser," says "Vorwaerts," the German Socialist daily, "never shows himself in civil dress, but always in uniform." He knows the power and psychological effect of theatrical dress and acting on a Christian people.

The "Australian Worker" congratulates the manager of the Commonwealth Bank on the success of his first two years' operations. He has actually made a profit of twelve hundred pounds. The other bankers are no doubt shaking in their soft seats at seeing a financial revolution only a million years away.

In a lecture delivered in Sydney on "War and Waste," Prof. Starr-Jordan likened the scaremongers of the press to a lot of dogs baying the moon at night. The "Sydney Morning Herald" immediately fitted the cap on to foreign journalists oblivious of the fact that it barks continuously itself.

New South Wales Labor Treasurer Holman proposes to increase stamp duties and income tax to meet the growing deficiency, and there is much joy in the labor camp, and as much chagrin amongst the Liberals. To placate the latter he is raising the fares on the trams to hit the Laborites. The loan expenditure last year totalled £8,700,000, and the annual charge for interest is growing, so Willie has to come down on the coffers of both enemies and friends. It's a wonderful system is capitalism.

The man who says "Socialism will never come" seems to believe that capitalism will last for ever. He surely cannot read the signs of the times. There is unrest everywhere, and a universal protest is being made against the robbery and oppression of labor under the capitalist system. The present system is being cursed by the foremost thinkers of to-day as one which brutalises men and makes beasts and idiots of them, and keeps women and children in the shadow of despair and death.

One hundred millions are spent annually in Britain on motor cars. This is remarkable in a country in which the workers toil and sweat under the impression that the bosses are barely able to make ends meet and keep the factories going. When the worker sees his boss whizzing by in his car with his family on pleasure bent, he ought to turn and take a look at his own family, in rags and almost



International Socialism and Bogus Defence.

shoeless, and with bread and margarine to banquet on. When he sees the contrast, he should start thinking.

"We have to recognise that the South African Government has declared war on the right to strike."—"The Nation." Australian and New Zealand Governments have also declared war against that right.

"In England everybody is public spirited."—Voltaire. Was this sarcasm?

In parts of London, where the poor live, the rate of infant mortality is 171 per thousand. Where the rich live it is only 71.

A comprehensive and earnest study of the philosophy of Socialism should be undertaken by every worker. The literature is cheap and plentiful, and no course of reading tends more to widen the outlook. There will be a vast difference in the "before taking and after taking" of the treatment.

"The Liberal Government is there to carry out the wishes of its friends, not the behests of its enemies."—Mr. Cook's chairman at Parramatta. What the chairman meant was that Mr. Cook, the foolish babbler is but the visible expression of a class whose servant he is, the meanest, scurviest, most sordid and contemptible ruling class the world has ever known.

When Nature is regarded from a mountain top everything in the garden seems lovely. Yet the world of men are fighting, snarling, and snapping at each other like a pack of hungry wolves. A small minority sits high above the turmoil, and keeps the majority snarling and fighting, while it enjoys itself. And the worst of it is that the majority never suspects that minority and doesn't seem to realise that it has made the world a vast kingdom of the mad.

"Here's a how de do!" British Army officers refuse to serve against Ulster; seething revolt amongst the rank and file; King George blamed for interfering in the squabble; and Sydney "Daily Telegraph" demanding to know what use the army is if it won't do its duty and shoot. And the whole confounded mix-up had its origin in Jerusalem nearly 2000 years ago, when Jesus declared for celibacy. The priesthood split on that bone of contention, and now Ulstermen

hate the celibate priesthood; and the southerners hate the married priesthood.

"The great urgent, pressing need is nutrition of school children. With that we could get better brains and a better race."—Sir Geo. Newman. That is impossible under the wage system.

Four thousand nine hundred and twenty-three railway workers were killed, and 224,115 injured, in Britain, during the years 1904-1912. None of the company directors were amongst the number.

"Is South Africa behind Botha?" asks a London paper. Judging by the recent elections, South Africa is behind him and kicking him vigorously.

"A lunatic took possession of a church at Otaike, N.Z., and installed a gramophone to "brighten" the services."—A daily paper item. The poor fellow must have been a bit off. A gramophone was already in the pulpit and the services couldn't be "brightened." You might as well try to brighten a reading of Dante's "Inferno," or an undertaker's dress.

"Eight senior stokers of the battleship Zealandia have been sentenced to two years for insubordination."—Daily paper. Naval cadets and recruits should note the stiff sentences that await them in the navy.

A block of land, on which the High School in Elizabeth Street, Sydney, stands, has been sold for £80,000. The value of the land has doubled itself in eight years. The owners of property in Sydney are on velvet, but they make William Mug believe that they are hard put to it to make ends meet.

"The latest theory of the Anti-Defence and Peace Society men is that wars are made solely by the influence of great cannon-selling firms, like Krupp's and Armstrong's, and that but for their craving to sell a few more cannon there would be universal peace. So presumably, Krupp, or Armstrong, or Maxim sooled Samson on to the Philistines, and sold him the famous jawbone."—"The Bulletin." It isn't true that pacifists assert that wars are "solely" made by armament firms, but there is something in the suggestion that Samson was "sooled" on by the war lords of his day. The war lords were on top of the Philistine caboose when Samson pulled the

pillars from under it and brought the outfit to destruction. The modern Samson (Socialism) is pulling the pillars from under Krupp's and Armstrong's.

"Legion them if necessary."—C. G. Wade, the great windbag of Capitalism, in a speech on the meat strike.

"For years the Prime Minister and his followers fought the principle of compulsory service. It was made popular by labor leaders, and even now stealthy attempts were being made to kill it by slowly starving it."—J. C. Watson, ex-Prime Minister of the Commonwealth, and present Director of Labor Papers, Ltd., boosting conscription after the manner of Tories and Liberals in Britain.

Mrs. Pember Reeves, wife of New Zealand's Agent-General, has written a book describing the life and conditions of the wage-earners and their families whose income is "Round About A Pound a Week." The authoress gives the breakfast menu of a family of seven: "One loaf, one ounce of dripping or margarine, a quarter of an ounce of tea, a quarter of an ounce of sugar, and a farthing's worth of tinned milk." Larger families have to cut out some of these items, yet they are afraid of jail, the workhouse, or a foreign invasion in Britain.

"The latest craze of the New South Wales Labor Government is compulsory agriculture. It is going to make holders of arable land within 15 miles of a railway grow wheat. With this ostensible end in view, it proposes to introduce a super-tax, which will make the holding of such land impossible unless it is given over to the plough. At best the measure is crude; at worst it is daylight robbery.

"If it succeeds, it will glut the market with land, and values will drop. That is, the present owners will be robbed. If they had bought within the last ten or twelve years they will get back nothing like what they paid for it. If they have held it for a generation or more they will lose much of a lifetime's effort, energy and enterprise. Their forethought, struggle, faith and good work will be greatly depreciated, and the country's confidence will be shaken."—Sydney "Stock and Station Journal."

All who buy stolen property run the risk of having to return it to the original owners. Land was originally stolen from the people by the State. It was sold to those who saw in it a good means of robbing others, and the squeak of the "Stock and Station Journal" about robbing the present owners, and causing land values to slump is made on behalf of its advertisers—the stock and station agents and other parasites on the real users of land.

"We have received a visit from a unionist, who said, among other things: 'I was at a shivoo last night where the toast of Australia was proposed. I am an Australian. Australia is mine and the fulness thereof—so much so that I am at this moment out of a job, and I have not the power to compel Australia to give me one.'

When the case is put in that light, by a man who is not earning the money necessary to pay for his footing as a member of society, there is no room for argument. This man wants work; other men want work. They have been born and bred in Australia; they have spent every working day of their lives in advancing the interests of somebody with that "stake in the country" that everyone applauds, yet they have no stake in the place themselves—not even the right to work."—"Barrier Daily Truth."

When you recollect that this man may be compelled to defend Australia, and may even be willing to undertake the job on the advice of Labor journalists, you needn't ask where the celebrated William Mug resides.

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Write on paper not larger than letter-paper, and thin enough to avoid getting us fined for over-weights.

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Write briefly and clearly, as long and undecipherable articles stand no chance of publication.

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Tell ye just the end I've come to
Arter cipherin' pretty smart,
And it makes a handy sum, too,
Any gump could learn by heart:
Laborin' man and laborin' woman
Hev one glory and one shame,
Ev'ytin' that's done inhuman
Injurs all on 'em the same.—LOWELL.

What to Do With Our Sons.

"We have accomplished at least one thing," says the "S. M. Herald" (21/3/14). "In other countries the parents of growing sons have to rack their brains to know what to do with them. We in N.S.W. have settled that problem. In this happy land the parent has no difficulty. He will make his son a coal-miner or a slaughterman."

The son may hanker after a clerkship at 30/- a week, and may even marry and sentence himself and his wife to something rather like penal servitude for life. The State may educate him, and endeavor to lure him into the professions by dazzling him with the halo which hangs over such professions as engineering, and surveying, but the son's inclinations, and the State's lures, must be resisted. The far-seeing parent knows that either the coal-miner or the slaughterman has a better job than any mere professional has, for the slaughterman gets £6 a week, and the miner almost any price up to the same amount.

"Engineers who are making railway lines in New South Wales can scarcely hope for such prizes." Two of the resident engineers who are called upon to build railways, in this country, it is true, are marked in the public service list for 1913 as getting salaries of almost £10 a week, and the Chief Surveyor is set down at nearly £10 a week, but the subordinates of such professional princes are not nearly so well placed as the coal-miner or the slaughterman.

The mere professional may have a sporting chance of becoming an engineer or surveyor in Korea, Siberia, Tonkin, Northern Nigeria, or anywhere excepting in his own country, with the prospect of a big salary and an uneventful career. But the coal-miner has the prospect of adventure and hair-breadth escapades to look forward to. What a fine thing it is to work in a deep mine like the one at Balmain, where the temperature steadily keeps equal to that of a baker's oven! How beautiful to hear the roof "talking" and the timber cracking; to rush from beneath a falling roof with the certainty of being flattened if you aren't quick enough! What glory a miner can achieve in an explosion, when even King George and Queen Mary may send their sympathy to his widow or his mother, as they did to the bereaved in

the Cadeby mine disaster. Then look at the beauties of slaughtering! No soldier on the battlefield can wade in so much gore and offal and glory as the slaughterman. What a fine career is his! As the "Herald" says, "the only danger is that there may be as big a rush to be a slaughterman as there now is to be a clerk," and the plethora of candidates may have the effect of "sending the wages down to poverty point." Ah! but consider the joy of a fight with the employers to send them up again. To strike and starve the bosses into submission, and to pelt scabs with decayed eggs, fruit, and vegetables! What pleasures has the professional man comparable to these?

But the "Herald" sounds a warning note. We are drifting into the dangerous belief that the most disagreeable jobs should be the highest paid. It will soon, if things go on as they are, need a high salary, for example, "to tempt a man to be a dustman or a coal-miner, but he will be ready to take on the interesting occupation of a doctor, or lawyer, or artist, or architect, for a lower salary."

This, of course, would never do. It would break up the home, sap the foundations of morality and religion, and destroy the marriage tie, if the disagreeable jobs were well paid ones, while the easy and delightful sinecures were low priced. What would become of the archbishop, who now receives anything up to £15,000 a year, or the capitalist, whose broker finds investments which yield a steady harvest from other men's ploughing and sowing? What would become of the newspaper brothel, where the editor prostitutes his talents in support of financial pirates and their political jawnsmiths. They would vanish and a system would develop under which mere labor would be dignified and the worker would be regarded as an honest man.

The "Herald" is very gratified to see that though New South Wales is tending towards the discredited belief that brains should be discouraged, the Commonwealth is not. "The Commonwealth still holds by the discredited idea that brains are worth obtaining, and that if men are not paid to be intelligent they will cease to be intelligent." Exactly. There is a majority of flats for the brainy sharps to exploit, and if you stop all encouragement to the exploiters, they will cease to use their intelligence in their own peculiar way.

The Commonwealth has proved itself the true friend of brains. It has opened up a brilliant prospect for every one of its brainy sons. As the "Herald" says: "It is open to any Australian boy if he has the brains to-day to be Commander-in-Chief of the British Fleet in the Pacific to-morrow; or he can enter an equally well-paid service on the staff of the Army." And if he cannot attain either the naval or military college, he may enter the training ship Tingara with a chance of climbing up the greasy pole of success or leaving the service in ten years' time with a stock of fighting notions eminently fitted to get him a quilling in any pub in town. As the "Herald" says: "The Commonwealth offers two excellent careers to boys with brains in whatever class it finds them."

We hope the boys will not all rush the "Commander-in-Chief" trap at once.

THE SUNDAY LAWS.

The newly formed Sunday Freedom Association of Sydney has roused the ire of our reverend contemporary, "The Watchman," with its first leaflet. Continued scrapping with Popery has made the Protestant organ extremely skilful in the art of sectarian warfare, and its leader of March 19 is a fine example of its ability to raise a dust around the position of an enemy. But when the remarkable twists and turns in its arguments are straightened out, the wowsy organ is seen to stand for the "Sunday" laws in all their barbarous lunacy. The Sunday laws of New South Wales especially ban all lectures in public halls and theatres on "intellectual" subjects on Sundays, and expressly give the saints a monopoly of the day. Any kind of a freak religion may be taught on a Sunday, but you cannot appeal to the intellect of an audience. If you do you may be fined £100. "The Watchman" broadly hints that it is money the members of the Association are after, but it knows well enough that there is no money in teaching science or lecturing on "intellectual" subjects in a Christian country. Priests and pawns die extremely wealthy, but lecturers on "intellectual" subjects generally die very poor. If the members of the Association were after the "loaves and fishes" they had better join the crowd headed by "The Watchman" and the "Catholic

Press," and receive the approval and support of the State. The Sabbatarian aims to make Sunday as gloomy as possible, but in the N.S.W. Theatres and Public Halls Act he has overreached himself. The Act is a standing joke for people who come here on a visit. They are no doubt very much impressed by the way we get along with "intellectual" subjects barred on Sunday.

THE SERVILE STATE.

"The policy of my department has been to give the best wages and conditions and to secure the best workmen, and having secured them to keep them. To enable this idea to be given effect to, a system of record has been established, so that when workmen are being paid off from one job, if they have rendered good service they are given preference on the next. Consequently, it often happens when a railway starts in a particular district, gangers who have been on other jobs re-employ the workmen who worked with them before, and who have, after the custom of the navy, followed their leader from job to job. This naturally gives rise to a certain amount of jealousy among local workmen, but it is part of the policy of the department to assure to men who give good service continuity of employment, and it is therefore unavoidable. Apart from the interests of the workmen, it must be clear that this system is also in the interests of efficiency, as a gang of professional navvies, working under a ganger they know, will obviously give a better return than an equal number of scratch workmen, no matter how capable and energetic the latter may be."—Mr. Griffith, N.S.W. Minister for Works.

Mr. Griffith may not know that he is aiming straight for the "Servile State," and he may not intend that the "System of Record" may be used to blacklist all those who are militant in the class struggle and those who offend the State gangers, but such results are as sure to follow as "night follows day." Mr. Griffith has said that he represents all classes, but some of the regulations framed by his department seem to favor the capitalist class against the working class.

UNION COERCION AND POLITICAL LEVIES.

Re the imposition of levies on unionists for political purposes, it will be interesting to your readers to know that the appeal against the Chief Industrial Magistrate's decision, "that unions can recover the levy for the proposed Labor Daily paper," is set down for hearing on the 27th of April, when the constitutional law points will be argued, "that the unions cannot enforce payment against objectors, that the levy is ultra vires and violates the principle of personal political freedom," that recent English decisions re the powers and scope of industrial unions holds good and annuls the precedents, which influenced the Magistrate in the case of the Railway Navvies Union against William Finch. The propaganda carried on by the Anti-Coercion and Political Freedom League, is bearing satisfactory results, as only a minority of navvies have paid the paper levy, notwithstanding threats of boycott, etc. The city branch of the Railway Workers are denying membership rights to objectors to levy, the chairman ruling them unfinancial, although all other union contributions are fully paid. Information received from Melbourne unions disclose a similar line of action being adopted there, with a view of coercing Socialists and other objectors into financing a paper whose policy they disapprove of. The A.W.U. are also issuing a message to members signed by Mr. W. G. Spence, president, urging immediate payment of levy to enable the paper to be produced by next November, and that "that no true unionist will fail to promptly pay his levy," etc. This regardless of the statements made by Premier Holman and other Laborites in their eulogies of militant Socialists at the recent P.L.L. Conference, who are also determinedly against the paper levy, whilst their fidelity to industrial unionism is beyond cavil or question. If the Daily Paper were an established fact to-day, it would endorse Mr. Chris. Watson's observations at the compulsory service, i.e., the press-gang defence system now in force, was made popular by Labor leaders and should be maintained in its integrity, etc., but would probably be silent re the abolition of the penalising deposit on Socialists entering the Federal arena, as Labor leaders and papers are dumb re the Socialist free-speech fight in Brisbane, and the repeal of obsolete Sunday laws as applied to theatres and lecture halls in Sydney.

—GEORGE WAITE.

The Indian Press Act, 1910.

An Appeal to the Public.

We have received the following letter from Sir Henry Cotton, signed by a large number of well-known men and women: "The news which is continually arriving from India of the confiscation of newspapers and printing presses affords evidence of a serious state of things, which is not receiving the attention it requires in this country. While recognising that all proper steps must be taken to deal with incitements to violence and disorder, it seems clear to us that the provisions of the Indian Press Act of 1910 are being used on a scale and in directions which were not contemplated when that Act was passed. The publication of criticism of the action of local authorities, and even the expression of sympathy with the misfortunes of such Moslem States as Turkey, Persia, Tripoli, and Morocco, have been made the excuse for the most drastic repression."

"It is stated that since the introduction of the Press Act there have been 28 cases dealt with, of which 22 represent Moslem organs, and in 21 instances newspapers have ceased to exist, either because the presses have been confiscated, or because the good conduct security demanded has been too onerous. In the other cases, the securities demanded have been paid sometimes by public subscription. More than a dozen forfeitures, either of money or of presses, have occurred during the last few months."

"The Press Act authorises action without judicial proceedings, and, should an appeal against the orders of the Executive be lodged, we have the authority of the Chief Justice of Bengal for saying that 'his powers are of the narrowest,' that even if an illegality has been committed he has not the power to rectify it, that his 'ability to pronounce on the wisdom of the executive order is withheld,' and that any chance of redress is 'almost hopeless.' These opinions are extracted from his judgment in the case of the confiscation of the pamphlet, 'Come Over Into Macedonia and Help Us,' and in the same judgment it is definitely stated that the Press Act is being used for purposes for which it was never intended; that its drastic penalties are inflicted upon men of position and repute; that conviction under it implies no stain upon the character of the accused; and that its operation 'would certainly extend to writings that may even command approval.'"

"The sting of these judicial comments is intensified by the fact that, when the Press Bill was under the consideration of the Government of India, the Hon. Mr. Sinha, who was in charge of the Bill, speaking on behalf of that Government, emphatically declared that an appeal to the Civil Courts had been introduced into the Bill in order to afford an effective safeguard to the independence of the Press."

"We wish further to draw attention to the fact that both the Indian National Congress and the All-India Moslem League have passed strong resolutions calling for the repeal of this particular Act, though not, of course, of any measures under which the incitements to violence may be dealt with, and that influential public meetings of protest have been held all over India."

"We, therefore, make an earnest appeal to the public of this country, in whose name and by whose authority the Indian Press Act is administered, to demand such an immediate alteration of the law, whether by amendment or repeal, as will put an end to the abuses which have accompanied its operation."—"Justice."

"I shudder to think of the risks we took at that signal—the chances we threw away. But what else could we do? The heavy fogs used to be a nightmare to us. At times the night was as clear as crystal, but in ten minutes we would be drawn within a pall of thick, cloud-like fog that obscured the weak, sickly flame in the kerosene lamp of the signal. What a tragedy it is to use kerosene lamps in a foggy place such as Exeter!! When the fog came on there was nothing else but to throw the throttle open and let the train go. All the rest was chance, positively dare-devil chance."—An old enginedriver on the Exeter disaster.

Profits must be made, so let them go. Into the fog that clouds the oil lamp's glow; It is a devil's chance, the worker takes, With life and death and profits as the stakes.

When you have finished with this paper, pass it on to a friend.

Degeneration.

To anyone giving the matter his or her consideration the measure now in force known as the National Insurance Act, is undoubtedly one of the most significant pieces of legislation that have been passed for many years. Significant, for one thing, as showing the trend of the movement by which the ruling class is endeavouring to obtain a firmer grip on the lives and destinies of those ruled. Even more significant, perhaps, in its implication as to the deterioration which appears to be gathering strength within the ranks of the workers. It is in the latter aspect more especially that the present writer wishes to examine it.

The question to be asked is: "Why is insurance against sickness on a national scale necessary? Why has this compulsory scheme of insurance been thrust upon the working class?"

A healthy man, or a healthy class of men, or a healthy nation, would find it superfluous to waste time formulating a complicated and widespread scheme of insurance against sickness. A healthy man, for example, takes little account of the possibility of his being ill. It is only when he begins to feel creeping on him lassitude, or aches and pains of any description, that he starts thinking as to his physical well-being. So with a nation. It is only when a nation is found to be in a condition of ill-health that the dominant section of that nation begins to devise ways and means by which the national sickness may be checked.

There may be some who will accuse the writer of attempting to credit the Government (or rather the capitalist interests that are behind the Government) with humanitarian motives in passing the Insurance Act. But such is very far from his intention. The capitalist class never has passed, and probably never will pass, any legislation that is not intended primarily for the benefit of the capitalists and for the purpose of strengthening capitalism. They have begun to realise, however, that the working class of this country (and the same applies to the working class of any civilised country) is in danger of developing into a class of mental and physical degenerates, and, realising this, they are making abortive attempts to bring into operation some scheme or other that will check this growing degeneracy, the more far-seeing of them perceiving that the continuance of such mental and physical penury means, not only the end of the workers, but the coincident end of the capitalists themselves.

The foregoing may seem to some people an exaggerated view to take of the conditions existing in present-day society. But the facts and figures given by eminent scientists and sociologists, as well as official statistics issued by the governing authorities, show that the position has little or no exaggeration about it.

Dr. Max Nordau, writing in the "Hilbert Journal" for the present quarter, on "The Degeneration of Classes and Peoples," says:

"The first phenomenon that forces itself upon our attention is the great increase of lunacy in all highly-civilized lands. The studies and statistics of Dr. F. Winslow for England, Dr. J. H. Kellogg for the United States, and Dr. Bertillon for France, are so well known that their figures need not be repeated here."

He goes on:

"The increase in crime is also a fact proved by the official statistics of all countries."

The following, as summing up his conclusions as to the cause of what he contends is the degenerate state of all civilised peoples, is worth noting:—

"The work done in the civilised world to-day is incomparably greater than at any former time. Even the poorest workman, who is not a beggar, but earns his own living, makes greater demands on his existence than his forefathers did, and the rise in his standard of life imposes correspondingly greater efforts upon him since it is not compensated for by the general rise in wages. The dominant part played in production by the machine, to a mere attendant on which man in the factory has been degraded, and ever-increasing division of labor which condemns the worker to an eternal, automatic repetition of a small number of movements, and reduces the part taken in his work by the intellectual faculties to a minimum, wears him out one-sidedly, and therefore quicker and more completely than is the case when, with a varied, manifold activity, which calls in turn upon different groups of muscles and requires the continued intervention of imagination, judgment, and will, he manufactures some complicated object of common use from the raw material up to the perfect article."

Even more sweeping than the above are some of the statements made by A. F.

Tredgold in an article entitled "The Study of Eugenics," appearing in the "Quarterly Review," July, 1912.

He starts out by saying that "The important question that confronts every nation is, are the people showing themselves possessed of, or lacking in, the capacity to advance?" From the information and the statistics he gives one can only come to the conclusion that the people are not showing themselves possessed of the capacity to advance.

In passing, it is very interesting to notice that when both A. F. Tredgold and Max Nordau speak of the "people" or the "nation" they are manifestly alluding to the working people (the members of the working class, implying thereby that the only important section of the community, the only socially useful and necessary section of society is that section which works; implying, moreover, that upon the shoulders of the workers alone rests the burden of civilisation, and if the workers are not strong enough to uphold that burden then nothing can prevent civilisation from falling.

To return, however, to the article by Mr. Tredgold. He admits that there has been a decrease in the death-rate, but contends that it is due to the advance made in the science of preventive treatment, rather than any heightened vitality of the people.

He then continues:—

"It is a remarkable and important fact that in spite of the diminished death-rate and of the lessened prevalence of many diseases, the average rate of illness has been steadily increasing for the past two generations."

(Statistics are given from reports issued by such societies as The Hearts of Oak Benefit Society, The National Deposit Friendly Society, The Manchester Unity of Oddfellows, in support of the above).

The following is taken from the last report of the Chief Medical Officer to the Board of Education:

"Out of six million children registered in the books of the public elementary schools of England and Wales, about 10 per cent. suffer from a serious defect in vision; from 3 to 5 per cent. suffer from defective hearing; about 40 per cent. suffer from extensive and injurious decay of the teeth; about 30 per cent. have unclean heads or bodies; a considerable percentage of children are suffering from a greater or less degree from malnutrition."

He says:—

"I think it is the experience of most physicians that diseases of the nervous system generally are on the increase."

He comes to the conclusion that "on the whole the proportion of the mentally weak in the entire community must be well over one per cent." and considers also that there has been a very real increase in the proportion of those persons who are unable or unwilling to subsist by their own efforts. (This last, of course, applies solely to the working class, and has no relation at all to the parasitic capitalist idlers.)

As to the increase in crime, from figures issued by the Home Office it is clearly shown that there has been a marked increase since the beginning of this century, and that in 1910 (the year the report was issued) the amount of crime was much above the average of recent years both absolutely and in proportion to the population.

The extracts quoted above make ugly reading, certainly. It is not surprising that the local and national authorities are beginning to take an interest in the physical and mental condition of working-class men and women and children. For the matter of that, neither is it surprising (to the Socialist) to see how futile are all the measures they bring in, all the efforts they expend, to prevent the downward tendency of working-class vitality. The workers may be patched up here, experimented on there, in order that they may still have sufficient vital force to continue the work necessary for the maintenance of society. But all the while the capitalist system itself is, like a cancerous growth, draining the vitality out of the workers. In a society composed of slaves and slave-owners, what can there be but degeneration, decadence, death? The only hope is in the slaves throwing off their shackles and thus obtaining the freedom to order their own lives.

The present writer reiterates the fact that it is for the working class to say what is to be the outcome of capitalism, whether society is to move forward to Socialism and a regenerated race, or back to degeneracy and a chaotic atavism. If the ever-increasing deterioration of working-class mentality and physique is to be checked, it will only be checked by the united efforts of the workers themselves, not by any system of eugenics, or through the medium of fraudulent insurance acts. Civilisation is in a very sick and sorry condition. It is the task of the working class to make it whole.—F. J. WEBB.

(From "The Socialist Standard.")

Authority.

(By Ajax.)

"Life is strife for every man,
For every son of Thunder,
Then be a lion, not a lamb,
And don't be trampled under."

Modern history is the record of the dominion of a class or caste over the many. Ever since society departed from communism and rested on a property basis, its history has been one long and bitter class struggle centering round the ownership of social necessities, this control of the means of life carrying with it the supreme authority. Institutions, cliques and persons sometimes trading under the name of religion, or the divine right of kings, have endeavoured generally by cunning and oppression to establish themselves as the supreme and infallible dictator of other men's actions and thoughts.

From a scientific standpoint individual authority is in direct contradiction to the laws of nature, and man is the only mental animal that breaks nature's laws. Ants living in a well organised society do not recognise the authority of an individual. Notice ants functioning; they each act independently, doing what is necessary, yet working in harmony. Although these insects are inclined to be fussy and industrious like the wage-slaves, they do not move automatically as soldiers. The bees look upon the queen bee as a figure-head, whose powers are extremely limited. Moreover, she only holds her position provided she performs certain social duties, and therefore there is really no grounds for us to boast that a constitutional monarchy is the best possible government. In these other insect communities when danger is threatened or some event demands a special effort or sacrifice, the ants voluntarily risk their lives for the welfare of the society, the reason being that they are animated with altruistic and communistic instincts.

Man, on the other hand, is narrowly selfish and egotistic, and the spirit of class interest breeds the lust for power. This idea of oppression is not a monopoly of the ruling factions; the slave class are unconsciously obsessed with it also. Even workmen who loudly decant upon the tyranny of capitalists become despotic when opportunity offers; thus it is that men who have risen from the ranks are the biggest bullies and task masters. The average worker, whether in his union, club, or home, shows a marked tendency to domineer over others weaker than himself, especially children and animals; indeed, indirect oppression in this respect is so commonplace that it passes without comment. The evil is further accentuated by the fact that so-called labor leaders have failed to grapple with it.

This spirit of authority actuates every institution in civilisation and dominates all actions of the ruling authority is at the basis of capitalistic exploitation. This difficult question of government upon which the greatest philosophers have wrangled for centuries is of great importance of the proletariat. From monarchy to anarchy is a long road, but whether you have a theocracy, autocracy, plutocracy, constitutional monarchy, bureaucracy or oligarchy, there is deep down at the bottom of human nature a revolt against class domination which has again and again risen and overthrown the powers that be.

The secret of the artificial growth and perpetuation of arbitrary dominion based on class rule, and of every precedent, and the reason why authority has been exalted to a high pedestal in society and acclaimed as the acme of truth and standard of justice in every social, political and religious institution is due to a false system of education.

Art, morality, religion, law, letters, physical torture, mental power, and every known means that force or fraud could pervert with the object of drilling into the human mind the presumed necessity of implicit obedience and slavish subservience for the age-worn fetish falsely called "Law and Order" have been unscrupulously used. Particularly is this the case with the education of the slave class, it being essential in the interests of the rulers that the toiler's children be mentally sophisticated with subjective ideas such as God, the State property, etc. Priests shine in this department, possessing an unrivalled knowledge of the psychology of the people they impress certain doctrines on the brain, which act as a mental discipline over the minds of the masses. That these theological theories are wrong does not matter. It is not necessary that a dogma be right, their purpose is served as soon as an idea, no matter how erroneous, is believed to be the truth by their flock—it conserves sacerdotal authority.

All forms of capitalistic authority are

based upon class interests, maintained not by reason—but force, regardless of the self-evident fact that truth or justice cannot emanate from a despotic egotism. A judge or public official must be class biased, being only the servant of plutocracy, whose interests are, irreconcilably opposed to the toilers. Yet workers in Australia blindly accept the decrees of Parliament and courts, apparently failing to see that these institutions function purely in the interests of the exploiters. Authority expressed through law operates to guarantee to the wealthy freedom to exploit and rob the people. Nearly all the alleged democratic laws have been forced by the lower orders, their rights only becoming legal when they can no longer be withheld. For instance, the present industrial laws of this State are, when analysed, an arbitrary attempt to bluff and coerce the workers, consequent upon the rising capitalist party (labelled Labor), capturing the political machine.

According to British justice a soldier who murders a striker or fighter at the command of authority, is a hero; yet if a citizen kills another illegally, no matter how great the provocation, he must be hung, that is to say, society represented by a judiciary finds it necessary to commit a second murder, because society objects to murder! No wonder Mr. Bumble said: "The law is an ass." One has not space to relate how utterly futile has been legality to control men's actions. Nearly every move that has been made towards freedom has been done in defiance of legality. The Greek civil law forced Socrates to drink; the Henlock, Papal law burnt Bruno; British justice executed John Bull. We now know that these and other men were right, and law was wrong. Indeed all positive law that is not based upon natural law is false.

This question of authority is not only important from a social standpoint, but more so from an individual's point of view. Each mind is a kingdom of its own, thought is infinite, ever changing, and there is no infallible teacher outside the conscious self. Any person or institution pretending to absolute authority is fraudulent. No one is capable of teaching the absolute truth upon any topic. Everything we know is the result of past experience; what to our imperfect knowledge appears right to-day may be demonstrated false to-morrow. Leaving aside class institutions whose business it is to promulgate superstition and error, ideas can only benefit people by a dissemination of education.

Veneration for authority is dying; everywhere static conceptions are challenged. People reason more and believe less. A growing minority think that freedom to all and privileges to none, is the scope for the supremacy of natural law, as opposed to class or positive law.

The strife, wars, tyranny and misery that the historic struggle for class domination engenders will continue until the economic basis of society reverts back to communism. Authority must then rapidly dwindle into insignificance, because the huge and costly machinery of Government will no longer be required once the class war is over. On that day man, seeing the folly of organised oppression, while naturally becoming more altruistic and less egotistic will look back upon the time when individuals arrogated to themselves autocratic power and privilege under the pretext of spiritual and temporal prerogatives as the echo of a barbaric past in which humanity crushed down with the burden of class and caste authority, stumbled onward and upward (through the blood of many martyrs murdered by inquisitors, kings, and capitalists), towards the goal of human freedom.

THE MINERS' WAR IN COLORADO. UNION REBELS IN JAIL.

We called on the prisoners one Sunday afternoon. Religious service was on. A group of religious zealots closed the meeting with singing:

"Yes, we will gather at the River,
Gather with the saints at the River."

The boys behind the bars followed with their favourite:

"The Union forever! Hurrah, boys,
hurrah!

Down with the Baldwins! Up with
the law!

For we're coming to Colorado! We're
coming all the way!

Shouting the Union cry of Freedom!"

These miners prefer union to heaven; they will gladly barter salvation in the hereafter for an increase of wages here. They are afraid of no offence to the saints in the calendar, if people here and now are right down busy at making themselves and neighbours a little more saintly. The prisoners were served with parts of the gospel according to Marx, Engels, Bebel, and "The Socialist Review."—George N. Falconer, in "The International Socialist Review."

THE MAN SPEAKS.

(Dead and worn-out horses and cows brought up to 10s. head.)

If I were but a poor and voiceless brute,
A beast of burden who had had his day,
A something you could sell—of skin and bone,
You'd cart me to the Zoo, for lion's prey.

Since I have worked from early morn 'til
night,
Beside your cared-for horse, I plodded on,
And saw him fed while I was sick and
faint,
For food and shelter, yet thou gavest me
none.

When nights were cold and winter winds were
drear,
I've wandered forth from his warm stalled
bed,
To where the children shivered in the slums,
And back I crept, his rug I stole and fled.

And oft when springtime flooded all the land,
I've seen this lucky beastie roaming free;
But on the treadmill there you tethered me,
And though I'd sweat, I'd starve, 'twas your
decree.

'Twas ever best for him and worse for me,
For human flesh is cheap and horses' dear;
If my old bones would bring you ten bob
clear,
I'd sure be sold, my suffering ended here.

Take pity now I'm done, my limbs awry,
Am aching from the use you put them to,
In mercy end my pain, O hear my cry,
And send me with your old horse to the
Zoo.

—E. L. PAUL.

Topical Tattle.

Children of five years of age have been discovered in London engaged at making matchboxes, artificial flowers, and paper bags, in order to help maintain their existence. Let us sing: "Britains never, never shall be slaves."

If one of our Reps. in Parliament would bring in a Bill to abolish the so-called sports, coursing, and pigeon shooting, he would more than earn a year's salary. Now then, you Sleeping Beauties, wake up!

The two morning Butchers' friends are great champions for Fat and Private Enterprise. As a sample of the latter, we might refer them to the Rockdale-Brighton Le Sands tram service. If the horrid labor party run such a service they'd be ragged baldheaded.

The time is coming when we really will have majority rule. The major part of the community are the workers; and by amalgamation and organisation they will eventually gain their birthright—the right to rule.

The prayer of Joseph: "Our uncle, who lives in London, blessed is thy brass; our time has come (unless a miracle happens) and we will be done as were our Liberal brothers in New South Wales; give us this day a big, fat loan; forgive us for gagging the Opposition, as we forgive them stonewalling us; lead us not into a dissolution, but deliver us from the Senate; then yours is the country, ours the power, and the glory for another two years. Owe—us."

Some dastard recently cut the new life-line belonging to the Wollongong Surf Club. If the culprit is caught, his punishment will be, according to New South Wales Justice, "Admonished and discharged." To get six months one must commit the enormous crime of being, say, a strike leader.

A doctor at Weston, writing to the "Herald," protests against the proposed Mission at Mornington Island. More hair on his head. A Mission's the thing to settle the niggers; it's worse than the smallpox.

The maxim of Fat is: "Short hours and long wages for the boss, and long hours and short wages for the employee." This is the day of equality.

Mr. Cook is reported to have said: "I hope we, as Liberals, will never resort to the tricks and subterfuges that are practised by the other side in order to stay in power and enjoy the emoluments of office." Beetles! As if there was ever a political party who did not adopt political tricks so that they might cling to power!

The pleasure of riding in a Bankstown, or Illawarra train is immense—especially if you're in a hurry. Aeroplanes are not in it with the flying "Rockets" running on these lines. Anybody who has a house adjacent thereto has a station right at his door, because the engine drivers are so obliging—they stop at all scheduled stations, and any other old place that's not mentioned in the time table. The station masters along the route stand on their various platforms, stop-watch in hand, and take the times of the different "flyers"; and if the drivers exceed the speed limit of 30 miles a week, they are duly reported. If a train doesn't arrive at a certain station by the prescribed time, the station master presumes it has gone by while he had "forty winks." The only

On the Footboards.

(By "Dominicus.")

Rain! Rain! Rain! All last week it has been pouring down and the dirty streets of our dirty Sydney are sloppy and greasy and wet. I come into town every morning in the crowded tram-car, and along the footboard of that steaming, dripping tram, crowded with people clinging to straps and jammed together, comes a poor working-stiff in livery of the class state. Yes, he is the conductor, and his business is to collect the fares; in fact, to gather in the revenue which the system yields to the class state. In pouring, blinding rain he gropes along the slimy footboards, takes in fares, and sees the people safely on and off the car. In dripping overcoat and streaming cap he marches along, for the State must have revenue, and "pimps" and "spotters" are ever on the watch. A slip would mean perhaps a fractured bone on the tarred pavement, or a leg cut off under the wheels. And every time I look at him, I think of the modern cars of the great American cities.

It is true that America is held up as a shocking example of capitalist exploitation. How clever our politicians are in holding up some other country as a shocking example! It is equally true, that in America there are very few street railways under municipal or State management—but it is also true that this State of New South Wales with its Labor Government and its gospel of "public" ownership is running its tramways under a system, which for sheer disregard of the lives and limbs of the workers engaged on them would be hard to equal anywhere. Throughout the cities of America to-day the general practice is to run street cars on the "pay-as-you-enter" principle. This means not only that the fare is paid by dropping it into a box on entering the car, but it also means that the conductor stands securely inside the car all the time. There is no footboard riding and no premature jumping off footboards. No one can leave the car until the door is opened, and that is done by the motor-man—when he stops his car. Of course, the system is slower just as it is infinitely safer, but is not America always held up to us as the home of "speeding up" and ruthless exploitation? Have we not occasion to thank God that we are living under a "Labor" Government, and that we are not as those Americans are.

How long are the workers of Australia going to be fooled with this claptrap of "nationalisation," as a means of overthrowing capitalism. Are the slaves of the tramway service any whit less wage-slaves than those in any other occupation? Long before the Hard Labor Party of Australia was dreamed of Frederick Engels had pointed out that the State was merely the managing committee of the capitalist class. State capitalism a remedy! When the tramways have to pay dividends in the form of interest to a parasitic class of financiers in London, who perform no useful labor in their worthless lives, and who have probably never seen Sydney. Will the Laborite tell us the difference between buying shares in the Brisbane tramways and buying New South Wales Government stock issued for the building of tramways and railways? The State runs our railways, and to draw another comparison with that land of "exploitation"—America, it has so far neglected to introduce the automatic buffer. You will see to-day the slaves risking life and limb by going between the buffers and linking the old-fashioned links and pins. Many a life and many a limb has been lost thereby; but in "exploited" America the potent buffer (coupling by impact), needs no porter standing around or getting between the trucks.

This queer nostrum of the fake Labor party has about seen its day. Economic developments are forcing even the blind followers of that party to recognise that a wage-slave is still a wage-slave though he wears a Government uniform. To-day, Sydney is faced with a proposal by that same Labor Government (glorious government of the "peepul" by the "peepul") to increase tramway fares and even that messiah of State capitalism, the "Bulletin," publishes a cartoon clearly intimating that this is being done in the interests of the London financiers. So the workers are gradually being made to see nationalisation in its true light, a stage in the development of the capitalist system.

Satisfaction about the matter is that they have to stop at Sydney station because they can't go any further; otherwise, one might be overreached, and the "boss" would be advertising the next morning for a new slave.

—F.M.

The Socialist ideal is a world free from poverty.

A.S.P. News & Notes.

AUSTRALASIAN SOCIALIST PARTY.

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General Secretary: J. W. ROCHE.
Headquarters: 115 Goulburn St., Sydney.
LUKE JONES, Act. Gen. Sec.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL.

The Administrative Council met at Headquarters on March 28, when very important business was transacted. Balmain and Leichhardt branches were unrepresented.
A Special Meeting will be held on April 1. Delegates please note.

LUKE JONES, Acting General Sec.

SYDNEY BRANCH.

The usual meetings were held last week-end, the speakers being Mrs. Paul, Shale, Riley, and Gordon.

Members are asked to turn up at the next branch meeting in Queen's Hall, Tuesday, April 7. This is the Quarterly Meeting. Branch Officers are to be elected, and the Balance-Sheet presented. Make yourself financial and attend the meeting.

LUKE JONES, Secretary.

BRISBANE.

Cheering crowds, conscious compliments, and lots of wind. Labor had its gala night. Fisher unburdened himself of the dire doings of the unburdened Captain—Cook. He told of a surplus bagged by the Prince of Political Pirates; of Kelly's crook contract achievements; of a white hope (I mean Australia) shamefully slashed by Queensland's featherweight, Digby Denham. Really, I felt that the country was going to the dogs, and a painful pessimism possessed me until that heavy comedian, Senator McGregor, enlivened the proceedings with a few hoary jokes. I know now that he played the game before. The Senator has played the game before. I know now that he played the game before, for when the papers came out next day I read the Senator's address delivered at a previous meeting on the South side and it was almost word for word of his speech at the Exhibition Buildings. I guess you heard the dope in Sydney—ring off.

We have several photographs to dispose of. Seven of the Free Speech Fighters are on the picture—Quinton, Rees, Brown, Jenkins, Rose Besant, and Mandeno. Price, 2s. 6d. post free. You will help the Fund by taking one.

Comrade Jackson, who has been doing great work up north, a few days ago suffered the loss of his youngest child. The sympathies of all members of the Party are with our Comrade in his bereavement.

A few weeks ago the Branch thought fit to elect a Comrade to do the Secretarial work, but the arrangement, owing to various causes, was not a satisfactory one, so we have reverted to the old position.

GORDON BROWN, Org. Sec.

BRISBANE FREE SPEECH FUND.

Received at this office, G. G. Reeve, 5s.; A. Harley, 5s.

PRESS AND MAINTENANCE FUND.

Previously acknowledged £81 9s. 9d.
"Enthusiastic," South Aust. 4s.; O'Connor, Townsville, 5s. Total, £81 18s. 9d.

A writer in the "Fortnightly Review" declares that Great Britain is being ruined by emigration. He quotes statistics to show that the best people are leaving for overseas dominions. The writer blames emigration, but landlordism and the profit system have caused the emigration. The pity of it is that the emigrants don't know that the same evils that they are fleeing from await them in the countries they are making to.

Once a man has imbibed militarism there seems to be no permanent cure. Some time ago Robert Blatchford wrote sensibly regarding defence, and his friends thought he had been cured, but on January 9, he suffered an unmistakable relapse, and wrote: "To put the case bluntly, we must have a navy strong enough to defend us against Germany or we must suffer humiliation and ruin." No war trust shareholder can beat Robert as a scaremonger when the occasion demands.

"We would point out . . . that if the obnoxious clause re the use of the military forces to suppress strikes is repealed, the citizen forces can only be called out to defend Australia against an invader. The Act provides that compulsion cannot be used to send the Australian forces abroad. We uphold but one phase

of militarism—if a ravishing army enters the land we live in, we expect all to oppose it. We will fight for the honor of our neighbour's womankind, and expect him to fight for ours. As to going abroad and fighting for Plute, emphatically "No." "Barrier Daily Truth." Labor provides but Plute decides. Let an industrial disturbance arise, or a war abroad take place, and Plute will soon alter, repeal or over-ride any Act that stands in his way. As for fighting for the honor of each other's women, you might as well put foxes to guard hen-roosts as soldiers to guard women.

THE "INTERNATIONAL" POSTBAG.

Waikie Kie,
North Auckland, N.Z.

Dear Comrade Editor,—

A copy of your paper of February 14, reached me in this benighted spot, and I was much interested in the article entitled "Theosophy and Socialism," as for a number of years I was a member of that society. As a system of philosophy Theosophy presents a solution of many perplexing difficulties. But here is the point I want to bring before you. The president of the I.P.B. branch is, or was, a personal friend of mine. A few months ago I happened to be conversing with a friend in their Holy of Holies, when the president sailed into me with "All you agitators ought to be drowned," and on passing on to the question of defence, he said, "It would be a pleasure for him to shoot us down." Now here we have a leader of a society which professedly has for one of its objectives to "form the nucleus of the Brotherhood of Man, irrespective of race, creed, colour, sex, or caste." Certainly, some of them have a quaint idea of the way to set about the task. Personally, I have summed them up thus: they are a clique who frequent their own quiet sanctuaries and discuss their own problems, no doubt interesting, but to aid their humbler sisters and brothers, who in the present storm and stress, are striving and suffering and sacrificing themselves to bring about a saner and freer expression of life, these cultured folk are too dreadfully respectable. In brief, they have fallen into the same useless, helpless state of the churches. Wishing your paper every success, and good luck to all Australian militants.

Yours fraternally,

J. M. JOHNSON.

P.S.—May the efforts of the lads fighting against the military incubus be crowned with success.—J.M.J.

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O. BLANC, Secretary.

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